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Singin' the blues
Award-winning Canadian soul and blues singer Sandra Bouza performed at the Pinestone on Saturday as the Haliburton County Folk Society kicks off its annual concert series. /ADAM FRISK staff

New EV charging stations step closer to reality

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Haliburton Village is one step closer to installing two new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, providing drivers with more options to top up their batteries.

EV drivers in the county may soon see two dual, Level 3 EV charging stations installed on Maple Ave. in the parking lot across from Dysart et al municipal building. That's because the municipality reached an agreement with Lakeland EV Charging to allow it to lease four parking spaces from the township to install the charging stations.

But for that to happen, Lakeland EV Charging still needs approval in funding.

"We've had a really incredible opportunity come to us recently, the Natural Resources of Canada's Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program had a round of applications open late last year," Peter Ewald, director of Lakeland Solutions, presented on Tuesday during a regular council meeting.

Ewalde explained to council that Lakeland Solutions submitted two group applications to the program, with one being approved immediately and the other denied. However, Natural Resources of Canada advised the company that there was still some funding left in the program and moved the second application into the approval process.

see DYSART page 12

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A cry from Loon Lake; seeking speed reductions for community safety

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

With the fall colours coming near their peak time, Loon Lake is a popular destination for motorists taking in the sights. But with vehicular accidents accumulating along the stretch of provincial highway, a group of concerned citizens have decided to take matters into their own hands, when their cry for help seeking a speed reduction has gone unnoticed by the government. "We've exhausted all our options," said Kathy Jolivet, the president of the Loon Lake Property Owners Association (LLPOA). "We're out to mitigate a high hazard, high risk situation."

The section of highway in question is a twisty and turny strip of Highway 118 squeezed beside Loon Lake on the eastern side of Dysart et al. Over the years, there have been a number of accidents along the route, but a recent situation in mid-August ignited the fire for resident Doug Harper, and his mission to lower the speed regulations. "The highway has changed," said Harper during a recent interview. We've seen changes in traffic. The number of motorbikes on the weekends is staggering. Slow them down."

While residents believe that traffic has changed over time, this cry for help has been years in the making. In August of 2022, the LLPOA reached out to MPP Laurie Scott, seeking a speed reduction for the highway. "Having been a resident of the area for over 40 years," said Jolivet, "I can honestly say there have been several accidents on this highway, some of which were fatal."

While Jolivet spoke on behalf of the LLPOA, little did she know that the initial letter would spark years of back and forth between the province and the lake association. As the months ticked on, Jolivet sent a number of nudges and reminders to the staff at Scott's constituency office, and never heard from Scott directly.

By August, 2022, a constituency office assistant for the MPP noted that the Ministry of Transportation was tasked to undertake an analysis of the traffic operations at the location. In December, 2022, Jolivet reached out again, noting members of the LLPOA had not seen any mechanical counters on the stretch of highway, and that with snow on the way, it was likely that no additional work would be done that year.

The attempted correspondence continues up to present day, with the LLPOA feeling that adequate coverage has not yet been completed to assess the need for speed changes.

With a dangerous accident occurring in August, the LLPOA has once again pushed forward with the fight to change the speed from 80 kilometres an hour, down to 50 kilometres an hour.

Yet with the proposed drastic speed change, there comes a level of enforcement required to keep drivers in check. OPP Provincial Constable Hillary Newman was aware of the speed concerns around the stretch of highway. "We've been focusing on speed a lot over the summer," she said during a phone interview. "If we are aware of it, we will have people at those locations."

Newman noted that if the speed limit is set to 80 kilometres, drivers have to notch 50 kilometres over that limit to be considered stunt driving.

But if the limit is set to under 80, anything over an additional 40 kilometres is considered stunt driving. "And the penalties for that are pretty severe," she said.

She noted that there was a recent influx of stunt drivers down Glamorgan Road, which is a county road. The highway in question along Loon Lake belongs to the province.

But that doesn't mean that the local council hasn't gotten involved. While they are aware that they cannot change the limit, Dysart council put forward their nod of approval during a June 2023 council meeting. "Dysart et al Council supports the request from LLPOA to reduce the speed limit along the Loon Lake shoreline of Highway 118," reads the two-year old resolution.

Council then directed the resolution to be forwarded to MPP Laurie Scott and the former Minister of Transportation, Caroline Mulroney. The LLPOA have not heard of the resolution being received from either.

Newspaper staff reached out to MPP Laurie Scott's office, seeking clarification on the progress of the resolution, and received the following response: "The ministry completed a field review which included spot speed studies and assessment of the highway geometry to confirm appropriate speed limits for the curves," it said. "The results of the technical analysis indicate that the current posted speed limit is the most appropriate speed along this section of highway."

Yet the messaging went on to say that there would be adjustments made, based on the layout of the roadway. "It was determined that the existing curve warning signs and warning curve speeds should be adjusted to better reflect the road design. The ministry will be updating these signs over the summer of 2023."

Staff were then directed to speak to the MTO, to which a response was never received. It was noted that the current signage continues to not align with the curves of the roadway, according to the LLPOA.

Beyond safety concerns, the LLPOA are mindful of risks associated with potential spillage into Loon Lake, should a truck tip over the edge. "We can mitigate potential personal injury incidents and injury to wildlife by mitigation of a reduced speed zone along the lake," said Harper. "As for the worst case scenario of a hazardous material spill into our waterway, it would have devastating consequences for all lake wildlife including fisheries and those species within the food chain that source from Loon Lake."

With their questions and concerns going unanswered, the LLPOA are continuing their fight for speed changes, particularly in light of the increased traffic during fall-colours viewing. In Harper's frustrations, he made an effort to reach out directly to Premier Doug Ford. "Being a first responder for 36 years, and seeing first hand the results of high speed motor vehicle collisions, I feel my perspective can offer an opinion based on experience," he said. "I am genuinely concerned more injuries and possible deaths will occur on this piece of provincial highway unless immediate action is taken to reduce speed, along with a strong enforcement policy to promote road safety."

At the time of press, Harper and the LLPOA have not received a productive response around their concerns. "The government is supposed to be there to help the people," said Harper. "We knew an accident like this would happen. And it's going to happen again if nothing is changed."

Record turnout for farmers' market in Haliburton

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

With just a couple of weeks left for the Haliburton County Farmers' Market, the summer season has already proven to be a success for vendors.

On any given Tuesday throughout the summer months, the public parking lot at Head Lake was chock-a-block full of vehicles as cottagers and locals picked up their provisions for the week.

"We had a fantastic season, we've had a lot more visitors this year, a lot more vendors this year," Haliburton County Farmers' Market manager Lexy Feinstein said in a Sept. 16 interview. "One day we saw 2,650 visitors come through the market, which is the highest we've ever had."

Feinstein said the weather was a benefit for market days this year but even on days that weren't so great, it didn't keep people away.

"So last year the motto was 'If it's raining it's obviously market day' but this year we've had fantastic weather," she said. "But I still find people come no matter what the weather is."

Vendors agreed with Feinstein, noting that the foot traffic in the market was "incredible."

"It's been a great turnout this year, you know. People come out for a reason and to get what they want," Barb Fisher said. "They are supporting the market really well this year. Some will say 'Well we knew you'd be here' so they come out to support us."

"Then you realize that's why you do it," the Janetville farmer said.

McLean Berry Farm also had a great market season this year with the increase of foot traffic.

"It's been really good, obviously it's a lot busier from July 1 to Labour Day weekend and then it slows up a bit," Cindy Leahy said. "But I think it's been a good market this year."

With still a few weeks left in the season, the Haliburton County Farmers' Market has put a call out for potential vendors who may be thinking about wanting to become a part of the weekly event.

The market in Head Lake Park is every Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. until Thanksgiving. Pictured, members from Killara Station showcase their fresh produce. /FILE

"We are still looking for pop-up vendors so if anyone is interested in testing the waters and getting a taste of what the market is like, we're open to, especially food vendors, pop-ups," Feinstein said. "They can come and see how they like it and then we can plan for them for next year."

Potential vendors can apply online to participate in a pop-up trial. The Haliburton County Farmers' Market season runs from May 10 to Oct. 11 and is hosted on Tuesday in Haliburton from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturday in Minden during the same hours.

Honouring forgotten veterans: A local quest for unmarked graves

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

> *There are many, many people buried in our cemeteries without grave markers ...*
>
> — Adele Espina, Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group

For Adele Espina, the cemeteries of Haliburton County are more than just final resting places; they are archives of untold stories. With an enduring interest in the military and a member of the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, Espina is on a mission to honour the veterans buried in unmarked graves throughout the county.

"Well, I've always been interested in the military and veterans. I think it started here locally when I worked at the Minden museum many years ago," Espina said in a Sept. 23 telephone interview. "I was amazed at how many young men from Haliburton County had actually signed up to fight in World War I. It turned out there were over 500 by the time I was finished.

"And since then, I've merged that with my general interest in cemeteries. That is really my niche with the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group," she said.

Espina explained that she joined the genealogy group about 20 years ago, and a gentleman who was responsible for recording all the burials in the cemeteries had turned over the database to her.

"And I've just ran with it ever since," she said. "And that led to my interest in veterans being buried in our cemeteries."

Espina's personal project led to her discovery that many veterans lay buried in graves without any headstone or marker.

"What I'm looking for are the veterans basically that we've just forgotten about," she said.

Espina estimates that approximately 50 veterans require a grave marker, spread across the county's cemeteries. These are not "unknown soldiers"; their names are recorded in cemetery records. However, a lack of family in the area or financial constraints often meant a simple burial without a headstone, Espina explained.

"The ones I'm working on so far, it's been a matter of either they had no close relatives, or the families probably couldn't afford a grave marker," she said. "There are many, many people buried in our cemeteries without grave markers. It's just not the veterans."

Espina is now dedicated to securing a military marker for these veterans, and while the process is straightforward, it's lengthy. It requires proving the individual's veteran status with service records, confirming their burial location with township clerks and cemetery caretakers, and verifying that no grave marker exists. The documentation is then submitted to the Last Post Fund, a national non-profit organization that provides grave markers for veterans.

Espina has submitted two applications so far, one for a military marker in St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery in Algonquin Highlands and the other in Haliburton's Evergreen Cemetery. With her most recent application, Espina said the Last Post Fund informed her that there were 2,000 applications ahead of hers and it could take a couple of years before receiving the marker.

"So there really is a groundswell of effort going on across the country to get these veterans some tangible remembrance of their service," she said.

Each of these unmarked graves holds a story of a life and service that is slowly being rediscovered, Espina explained.

"What touches me, of course, is the stories of how each of these veterans ended up in an unmarked grave," Espina shared. "Because I'm able to follow their service as well as their lives."

Clothing swap aims to slow down fast fashion

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

In an age of fast fashion, it's critically important to consider the life-span of clothing.

That's why Dysart's environmental manager, Ashley Dembinski wants to carry on the practice of a local clothing swap.

"People are holding onto clothes for half the amount of time they should be," said Dembinski, "in 2014 there was a real spike in fast fashion."

Fast fashion is a booming sector of the textile industry, whose business model relies on cheap, rapid, and large-scale production of low-quality clothing. While the clothing is labeled with affordable price points and are keeping 'on-trend' with current style, the environmental impacts are staggering.

In a recent study, it was noted that fast fashion manufacturers generate more pollution than international aviation and shipping combined, creating a carbon footprint of 1.2 billion tonnes of CO_2.

The peak age for purchasers in this fast fashion world seems to hover around 18 to 24, but with targeted ads and online shopping, anyone is able to access the cheaply-made clothes.

And this is something that hits home as well. "In August 2022, Dysart implemented a textile recycling program," said Dembinski. "To date we've diverted approximately 120,857 pounds of clothing from potentially ending up in landfills."

She shared that on average, 81 pounds of textiles per person are thrown out to landfill annually. "In 2022 and 2023, waste composition studies were conducted at the Haliburton Landfill," said Dembinski. "It was noted that in 2022, 2.49 per cent of materials found in the garbage stream were textiles. In 2023, after the textile recycling program was implemented, there was a 58 per cent reduction."

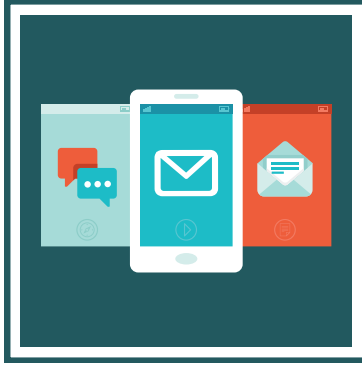
With this in mind, Dembinski is eager to provide an opportunity for locals to not only have a sustainable option to drop clothes off, but additionally, an opportunity to pick up some new clothing, without scrolling the fast fashion sites.

Hot on the heels of a successful first year, the Great Haliburton Clothing Swap will be held in the Great Hall at Haliburton School of Art and Design. Even with the ongoing tension around the support staff strike, organizers have decided to move ahead with the central location.

Clothing can be dropped off at the college any time between Sept. 29 to Oct. 2. "Anything can be donated as long as it's in good, wearable condition," said Dembinski. On Saturday, Oct. 4, browsers can peruse the clothing in 15 minute increments, allowing others to take a turn looking around. They are welcome to re-join the line again if they wish to continue browsing.

All clothing not picked up during the swap will be donated directly to Cornerstone to Recovery, a charitable organization that supports people experiencing, and impacted by addiction and mental health.

For more information on the clothing swap, visit www.dysartetal.ca.



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From mathematics to art with George Hart

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

George Hart is a man on a mission: to show the world that math is cool.

As a kid, Hart loved constructing geometric objects and stacking things to make towers. His parents, an engineer and an accountant, fostered a love of mathematics in Hart. Like many artists, these artistic inclinations remained with him into his adulthood.

When he envisions something creative, he has to make it real.

However, Hart creates his art with an unusual twist.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Ph.D in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, both from M.I.T., Hart uses both mathematics and inspiration from the natural world in creating his works of art.

"My work is very engineered and thought about ahead of time," said Hart.

When designing his pieces, he often will use computer programs that he created himself to envision his ideas. His works feature intricate and symmetrical repeating patterns. Whether made by a 3D printer, laser cut wood, or metal, Hart uses repetition and influence from the world around him to assemble his pieces.

In testament to his mastery over everything geometrical, encyclopedias would cite Hart for further reading on polyhedra. When NASA found the martian meteorite ALH84001, thought to be a sign of interstellar microbial life, they asked Hart to help name its shape, a truncated hexa-octahedron.

It was only in his 40s when he visited a gallery in New York City and they agreed to sell one of his pieces, situated in the gallery alongside works by M. C. Escher, when Hart proudly labelled himself as a sculptor and an artist.

> ***"Anyone who's been a teacher for a very long time learns ways to creatively explain things ..."***
>
> — George Hart, artist

"I had my stamp of approval," said Hart.

Recently, Hart says that he has been inspired to make bigger pieces that require more work to assemble. He says that by making them bigger, it gives the pieces more weight and importance. Instead of a hand-sized geometric shape, a large piece would allow people to see the intricate pieces and engineering involved with the work.

Throughout Hart's career as both an educator and artist, he has dedicated himself to educating the public on the wonders of mathematics.

"Anyone who's been a teacher for a very long time learns ways to creatively explain things," said Hart.

Three years ago, Hart's wife attended a ceramics course at Fleming College in Haliburton. It was through her experience that he visited the campus and the Sculpture Forest.

Last year, Jim Blake, curator of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, asked Hart if he would be interested in creating a sculpture for their forest.

Hart agreed to create a sculpture, and to do sessions for the public and local youth.

"It's always great as kids are exposed to different ways to look at the arts and who are artists," said Blake.

Blake also says that Hart can speak to the youth working as a professional artist who has artworks displayed publicly around the world.

On Thursday, Oct. 2, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. the Haliburton Sculpture Forest and the Haliburton School of Art and Design will be hosting their "From Mathematics to Art with George Hart" event in their Great Hall. During the talk, Hart will discuss his work, the methods he uses, and the underlying ideas of patterns and symmetry. The next day, Hart will be working with local youth to construct the sculpture before it is installed in the Sculpture Forest.

"From Mathematics to Art with George Hart" is entirely free and everyone is welcome to attend.

"I hope people will be amazed, intrigued, and inspired," said Blake.

With education at Hart's core, he hopes that his talks will inspire people in the community to reconsider how they think of math.

Hart says that math is capable of answering questions and bringing reason to a seemingly chaotic world. There is great distaste towards math from parents to their children. Hart wants to revert these feelings by revealing that math can be found in nearly everything in the natural world.

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Tyler Medaglia wins Corduroy Enduro third year in a row

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Tyler Medaglia, centre, holds the trophy as this year's Corduroy Enduro winner in Highlands East. This is the third year that Medaglia has won the race. /Submitted

For the third year in a row, Tyler Medaglia from Brookfield, Nova Scotia has won Canada's toughest motocross race.

The Corduroy Enduro is notorious for its tight turns, rugged terrain and number of roots in the course. Last weekend, riders arrived in Gooderham from across Canada; including British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Ontario. American riders came from far reaches of the states like Oregon, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Indiana, and Maine.

A true force to be reckoned with in the sport of motocross, Medaglia won the 2025 FMSQ Canadian National Cross Country Championship only a week before the Corduroy Enduro.

During the prologue course that determines the order in which riders choose their starting position, Medaglia took a slip into the woods. Shaken up a bit, his bike was scratched and his clutch lever was bent. Landing on his shoulder blade was sore, but ultimately, it was not enough to prevent Medaglia from taking home the trophy.

After the prologue course, Medaglia chose to begin in the second row. A strategic choice, the earlier the rider leaves the starting line, the less visibility they will have on the ground if there is leaf litter. These leaves can hide things like roots, stumps, and rocks that can cause a wipe out. The earlier you leave, the less traffic there is on the trails as well.

"Last year, the leaves were so bad," said Medaglia.

On the other hand, the later you start, the dustier the trails will be. With the exceptionally dry weather this year, Medaglia says that he would often only be able to see the headlights of the rider in front of him.

"It was almost like you are riding through water," said Medaglia. "I really enjoy riding through sand."

Over the course of the weekend's Corduroy Enduro, racers must accomplish around 300 kilometres in two days.

"You have to be aware of your machine, your body, when to push, and when to take it easy," said Medaglia. "All while trying to go as fast as you can."

Losing a foot peg between service stations, Medaglia used vice grips and zip ties to make a makeshift foot peg until he was able to get a replacement.

To train for events like the Corduroy Enduro, Medaglia says that he has to have the endurance and strength to handle the machine, but not have an excess of muscle that will throw him off balance. He says that his training typically takes place on his bike.

"It's one of the most physically demanding sports on the planet," said Medaglia. "There's nothing that comes close to it."

To assist him on race weekends, Tyler Medaglia is part of the Valley Yamaha race team, based out of Port Williams Nova Scotia. At races, Medaglia also has a mechanic to assist with refueling, oiling, etc. At night, the mechanic worked on the bike while Medaglia rested his body.

Medaglia has noted that as the years go on, the number of racers in the Corduroy Enduro are getting noticeably higher.

"It's bigger and bigger every year," said Medaglia.

The Corduroy Enduro is Medaglia's last race of this season.

Riding for over 30 years, the veteran rider is honoured to be able to pass his knowledge of the sport he loves to his son, Talon. While he is afraid of his son getting injured, Talon quickly fell in love with the sport of motocross just as he did. With all the injuries Medaglia has had, he would never force the sport on his son.

"I was kind of weary at first. He loves it just as much as I did when I was a kid," said Medaglia. "He has got a certain gift, so he's all in and has good technique."

Medaglia tries to show Talon everything he knows, preparing him to major tournaments across North America.

"We ride a lot together," said Medaglia.

Wanting to be a part of his son's life, Medaglia will be at motocross tournaments with him. He figures that he will be racing for as long as he is able to, while also supporting his son along the way.

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JENNIFER MCEATHRON, General Manager and Sales
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

EMILY STONEHOUSE, Managing Editor
emily@haliburtonpress.com

THOMAS SMITH, Journalist
thomas@haliburtonpress.com

ADAM FRISK, Journalist
adam@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON, Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

STACEY POTALIVO, Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

CIRCULATION
subscriptions@haliburtonpress.com

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Truth

AS WE wade the waters of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - a day for reflection, for pausing, for honouring - it's difficult to look past the muddy riverbeds of the world.

The day was established to recognize the thousands of Indigenous children who never came home; whisked away to residential schools, their spirits and souls stripped from their bright eyes before they saw a new season take shape.

And we will remember them. Not because we knew them, but because child-like whimsy and wonder lives on in our own children, who we safely tuck into bed each night.

Sending my children elsewhere against my will would rip my heart to shreds, their uncertainty would be my demise.

So as we spend this day remembering them, thinking about the pasts they had and the futures they were never given, we must think about the core of the day's purpose: Truth.

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

In a world where we canonize characters whose sole purpose was to tear others down; dividing populations in the process and banning books that inspire thought, is that Truth?

A world where we comfortably stick our heads in the sand, knowing full well that children are dying, innocent people are seeking an escape from the nightmare of their lives, while we aimlessly scroll though targeted Instagram ads, is that Truth?

A world where we take medical advice from retired reality TV hosts who have weasled their way onto the political stage, flippantly bypassing decades of scientific research and education in the name of sensationalized propaganda, is that Truth?

It is not my intention to take attention away from Indigenous communities on this day of remembrance. We've already taken too much.

But what I do ask, is that while we sit on this day and navigate Truth, we get to the heart of the term.

When those children were sent away, not all that long ago in our bloodied Canadian past, we were not told the Truth. It wasn't until recently, when stories of the literal skeletons began to fall from the closets, that the Truth began to snake its way into our lives.

Suddenly, we had to face it head-on. The stories of the survivors, the ones who came home. The ones who didn't. Countless lives shifted, changed, altered, twisted against their will. Some horror stories found their closure, while other books remain open; a dangling cliffhanger that straddles the lines of hope and hatred.

But the Truth found its way to light. Some of it, at least. Bits and pieces continue to take shape, as we poke holes in the history of our country.

We sit in a world that washes over us with actively placed disinformation; the Truth harder to grasp through the rippling waters of propaganda that we all actively gurgle, an effort to quench our thirst.

A dangerous path is being carved out, and we must take caution before taking foot. We must be mindful of the generations who came before us; the ones with leaders whose 'Truth' consisted of removing anyone who was different, anyone who used their voice, anyone who waded against the waters that were shoved down their throats.

It could be argued that Truth is subjective; open to interpretation, depending on your core values. Are we following those same leaders of the past, or are we going against the flow of the stream, to seek our own Truth, fighting to bring it to light.

Catching concussions early in sport

DURING THE Women's Rugby World Cup this year, you may have noticed something a bit different about the mouthguards the players have been wearing. This year, World Rugby has been trialing some new technology to help catch the incidence of concussions early – mouthguards that are equipped with accelerometers, gyroscopes, a Bluetooth connection, and flashing LED lights.

In contact sports like rugby, American football, hockey, boxing, and wrestling, concussions are a known hazard. Concussions occur when rapid velocity changes caused by impacts to the head, neck, and body cause the brain to move within the skull. This movement can cause injury to the brain which can result in a variety of symptoms including headache, dizziness, nausea, and vision problems. Concussions can also impact thinking, emotions, and the ability to sleep.

Humans & Technology

Erin Kernohan-Berning

The mouthguards being used in the Women's Rugby World Cup measure the force of impact events the player is subjected to and, if the force meets a certain threshold, will send a Bluetooth alert to support staff. Flashing LED lights provide a visual cue to referees so they can immediately stop play and send the player for a head injury assessment. For women, the threshold for an alert is when a player experiences an impact of 65gs. These high-g very short duration forces (like colliding with another player) are what cause the type of brain movement that results in a concussion. (Note: this is different from what we think of as the g-forces that a fighter pilot might endure, which are lower but sustained for a longer time and cause a different set of issues, such as blood pooling in the legs).

So far, the mouthguards are yielding results, with six impact events picked up over the course of one weekend of matches. Where the mouthguards are particularly valuable are for concussions that might not exhibit symptoms until days after. According to Dr. Éanna Falvey, chief medical officer for World Rugby, continued play after a concussion-causing event raises the risk of prolonged recovery. If a player doesn't know they are concussed, they may continue playing and make their condition worse.

Repeated concussions or even subconcussive impacts have been linked to a condition called traumatic concussive encephalopathy (CTE), which can appear years after repeated head injuries. Symptoms range from physical issues like dizziness and tremors, to mental health issues such as depression, and can develop into a form of dementia. While CTE shares some similarities with Alzheimer's disease, they are distinct from one another. Currently, professional athletes are the largest group with CTE.

CTE is only able to be diagnosed via autopsy, with the first case confirmed in 2005 in football player "Iron Mike" Webster. Boston University's CTE Center has since posthumously diagnosed hundreds of former athletes through donor brain examination. While pro athletes are possibly the largest group studied for CTE, other people at risk include those in the military, first responders, and victims of physical violence.

The mouthguards being used currently are just the most recent iteration of the technology, with non-flashing versions being used by World Rugby since 2023, and similar technology used at University of British Columbia for their Thunderbirds hockey team. These high-tech mouthguards are not mandatory for players. Since the medical data they collect and transmit is considered private, the players need to be comfortable with agreeing to use them. But, in the Women's Rugby World Cup, the uptake has been close to 100 per cent, with only a handful of players willing but unable to wear them due to having dental braces.

This is particularly important as concussions in women are under studied. The incidence of concussions in rugby is higher in women than in men despite an estimated lower impact rate in women's rugby. Understanding why that may be the case can lead to the development of preventative measures specific to women players. Additionally, susceptibility to concussions can be highly individual, and studying the types of problematic impacts of a particular player could help with individualized interventions. These could include introducing changes in technique, better protective equipment, or even changing the rules of the sport to make it safer (which is what the NFL did with their kick-off rules this year).

As this technology becomes more widely used in professional sports, the hope is that it becomes accessible to youth and amateur sports. According to Boston University, young players may be more likely to develop CTE when they get older because of injuries sustained in their teenage years. Being able to detect concussions quickly, reduce their frequency, and prevent repetitive head injuries across all contact sports will help reduce the number of athletes whose lives are affected by CTE. Also, if aspiring players see their sports heroes treating concussions with the seriousness they deserve, they'll be more likely to treat them seriously too.

points of view

Beyond de leaf

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

NOT THAT long ago, I picked up a rake and spent an hour or two creating random piles of leaves all over our lawn. I thought I should try it at least once before I die.

I quickly discovered that raking is highly over-rated and perhaps even a futile activity. I mean as I was raking, more leaves were falling. It made no sense.

This got me wondering why we have made such a big deal of raking leaves in the first place. Also, it answered the question, "If you could go back in time and stop anyone from harming humanity who would it be?"

My answer would be Herbert S. Rake.

I'm sure he meant well.

Perhaps he thought he was making a more stylish broom for the local witch coven or something like that. Or maybe his original design was a comb to get mats out of sheep.

Unfortunately, he developed a weapon of cash destruction instead.

Cash destruction? Yes, of course.

You see, raking is the high end of slippery slope. Sure, a rake is relatively inexpensive. Heck, I suspect most fellows would give them away, if their partners were not within earshot.

So how are they cash-depleting? To begin with, they are not as cool as a leaf blower. A person with a leaf blower, an accompanying backpack, and ear protection looks very cool – but only to a person carrying a rake. To the poor fellow with the lowly rake, the leaf-blower owner looks like they could and, just might, take off into space at any given moment –leaving their leaf-covered lawn, and all other worldly troubles, behind.

As you probably guessed, this creates leaf-blower envy. Worse still, this festers. So much so that, after an hour or two of futile raking, the poor schmuck doing the raking is ready to sell their most prized possessions in order to buy a leaf blower.

It's not healthy.

Thus far, I have avoided this. But, after my raking experience, I went inside just in the nick of time. This saved me, for I was able to close the blinds and plug my ears before my neighbour started leaf blowing and, possibly launching himself to infinity and beyond.

Even now, I can't think of it while holding a rake. Otherwise, I'd be at the hardware store trying on leaf blower set ups.

This would be costly and potentially embarrassing, if I were able to find a *Ghost Busters* costume that fit. And, let's be honest, totally unnecessary.

All this is to say, if aliens were observing a person using a leaf blower they would be reporting, "This civilization is technologically stunted – they can't even get their jet packs to work properly."

That presumption would probably incite them to invade us and learn our ways – and therefore leave feeling a little dumber than when they arrived. Somewhere along the line, they would also figure out that this is how we deal with our fallen leaves. As a result, they would leave every autumn just to avoid raking.

All that notwithstanding, raking our leaves has become a societal obligation for many of us these days. Some people really like doing it. Others don't exactly love it. Nevertheless, they do it out of respect for their neighbours.

As for myself, I could rake it or leave it.

pic *of the* past

In the heyday of tourist lodge vacations, Wig-A-Mog Inn often entered a float in the annual Rotary Carnival Parade. Owners Merv and Alice Robinson were very accommodating of both staff and guests. Dinner was held an hour early; guests helped with cleanup and setup so that everybody could get to the parade on time. Leading the float in 1954 were four waitresses, wearing crepe paper costumes, and executing a choreographed routine that even included some cartwheels. From left, Beth (Pequegnat) Chambers, Maryella Foran, Eleanor (Owens) Cooper, Marilyn (Sim) Bennett. /FILE

Not too cold

Our road Down

Sharon Lynch

THE FIRST few seconds were the worst. It was always like that so George knew what to expect. Going for a swim at the cottage on Thanksgiving weekend was not for the faint of heart and he prided himself on never having missed a dip for the last twenty years. But it was getting harder. Maybe his older body was trying to tell him something.

It was early afternoon on a surprisingly warm Sunday. Preparations for the big turkey dinner were in full swing and Patty was quite happy to have him out of the cottage kitchen. Earlier the grandkids had marched into the bush to collect leaves and now it looked like there would be an abundance of seasonal decorations for the meal.

George was only too happy to be out of all the fuss. Instead he had grabbed his favourite towel and headed down to the beach for one last dip. The hills were ablaze. It was like he was surrounded by fire and light with reds, oranges and yellows circling the bay. Sunshine, now a cooler version of it's July self, encouraged him to take the plunge. Instead, perhaps to delay the inevitable, he threw down his towel and planted himself on a stump.

Not a breeze rippled the water's surface. It sounded like the loons were preparing to fly south as they called to each other farther out. George wished he was flying somewhere also. Not that he minded winter. Heck he was a Canadian, eh, and the cold season had always meant skiing and riding the snowy trails. But this year was different. This year he found himself thinking of palm trees and turquoise waters, bare legs and wide-brimmed hats to keep the sun out of his eyes. And water so warm you almost felt you needed to complain that it wasn't refreshingly cool enough.

He knew he was procrastinating. He knew he wasn't going anywhere this winter except to visit his brother in Manitoba. That would hardly call for sunscreen and flip flops. But he and Patty would drive and George had to admit he'd rather poke a stake in his eye than go anywhere near the airport.

So enough delay. It was time to take the plunge. Ignoring the chill that ran up his calf to his thigh, he started walking into the water. It felt colder than he remembered but he kept going. Thinking of the brave souls who did the yearly polar bear plunge gave him an incentive to continue. When the water had reached his waist, he tried to ignore his shivering discomfort and ducked under, head and all.

Quickly bouncing back up, he felt the cold streaming off his head and down his face. Heck it wasn't so bad, he told himself. He then forced himself to swim a few strokes. This was mostly so he'd have bragging rights around the dinner table later. Sure, he'd say, it wasn't that cold after all.

letters to the editor

Drinking while driving & littering

To the Editor,

Littering has become a real problem in the Highlands especially with the influx of more people in recent years but this one's over the top. I'm not sure if it's because beer is now more readily available at gas stations, convenience stores etc, but over the course of the summer while taking our dog Justice for a walk up Sunnyside Street in Haliburton Village, I have retrieved dozens of beer cans along the side of the road on a daily basis. Creemore Ale seems to be the beer of choice and I have since put up a beer can tree and a no dumping sign to no avail. Not only is this obviously a serious issue when it comes to drinking and driving but a sad detraction to our beautiful landscape. Speaking of justice, I have recently made the OPP aware of this and hopefully, they will be able to solve the problem and give us back what was previously an enjoyable and safe walk up the hill!

Dave Allen,
Haliburton

Crunch your way through the leaves to Abbey Gardens

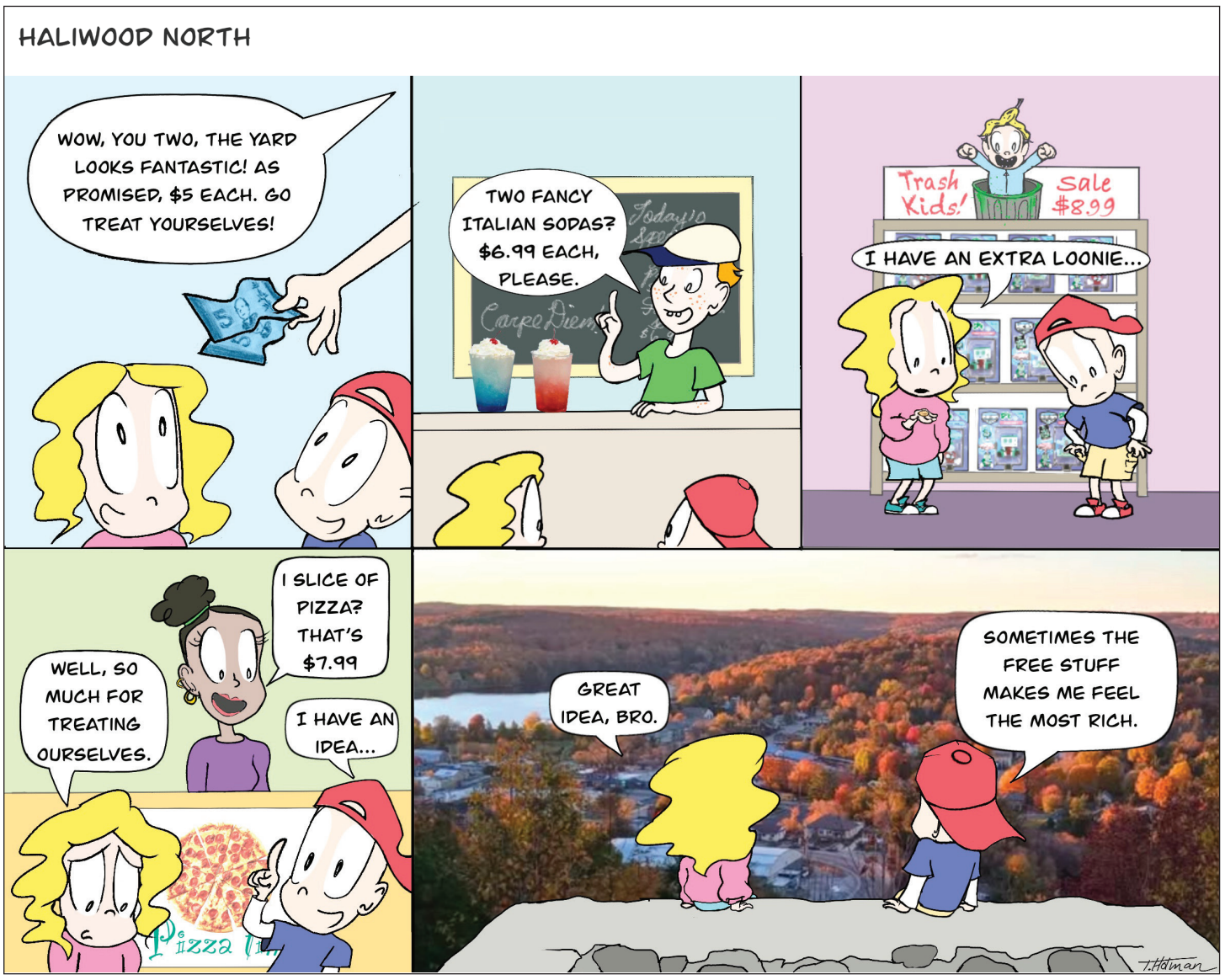
The Fall Festival returns to Abbey Gardens on Saturday, Oct. 4, and it's one of our most beloved family events of the season. The festival runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., giving families plenty of time to enjoy all the autumn-inspired activities at their own pace.

Your family adventure includes a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch, a harvest scavenger hunt where you will decode the secret message, a cookie decorating station, a tractor bounce castle, a photo booth station, savour fall treats, free face painting, games, and more!

"We're thrilled to celebrate the beauty of fall with our community," said Angela Kruger, executive director of Abbey Gardens. "The Fall Festival is a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors, connect with nature, and create lasting memories." There will be a festival food snack bar running during the day offering seasonal treats with further food and drink options available in the Food Hub.

Fall Festival is a popular family event that usually sells out, so visit our website: abbeygardens.ca under "programs & events" to get your tickets today!

Submitted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GREAT IDEA, BRO.
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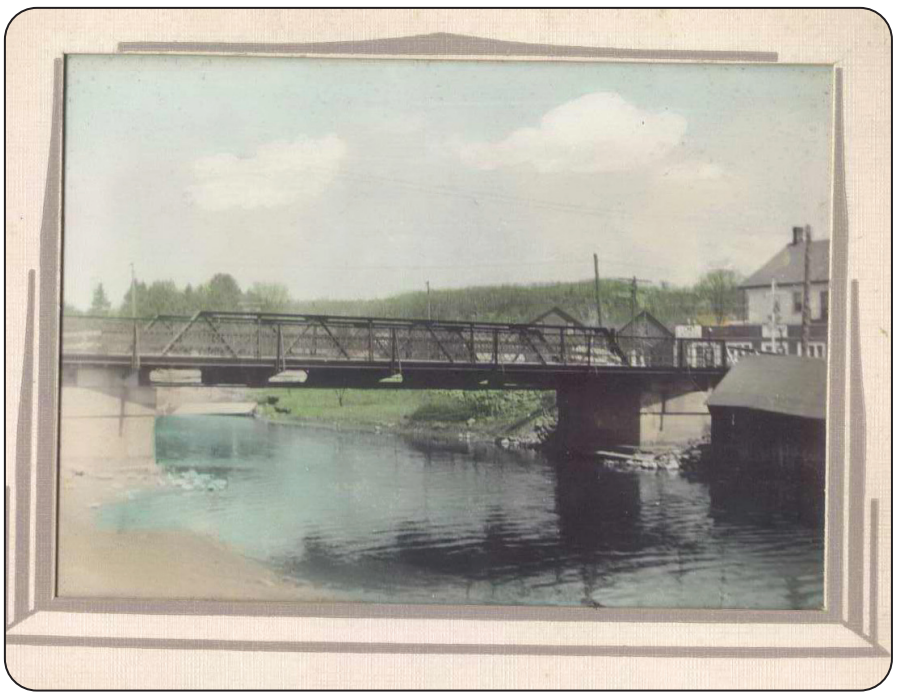
T.Holman

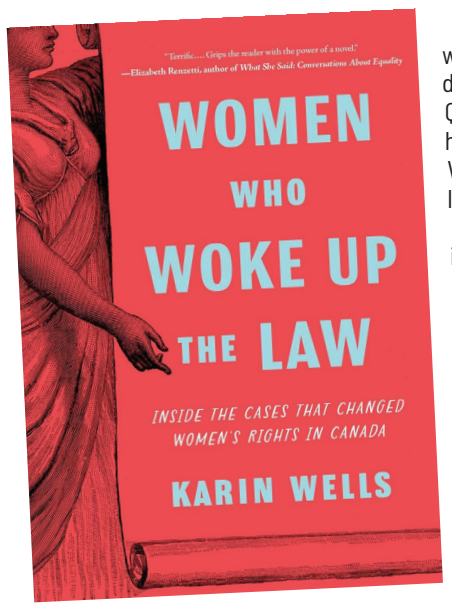
Minden Memories



Sunnybrook Bridge in Minden. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week


"Terrific.... Grips the reader with the power of a novel."
—Elizabeth Renzetti, author of What She Said: Conversations About Equality
WOMEN WHO WOKE UP THE LAW
INSIDE THE CASES THAT CHANGED WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN CANADA
KARIN WELLS

In a small Nova Scotia courthouse, a woman fought to prove she acted in self-defense when she killed her partner; in a Quebec courtroom, another insisted it was her choice - not his - to have an abortion. What drove them to keep going, even when lawyers warned their cases were hopeless?

From packed courtrooms to landmark rulings, Karin Wells brings us into the stories of Eliza Campbell, Chantale Daigle, Jeannette Corbiere Lavell, and others whose battles reshaped Canadian law. *Women Who Woke Up the Law* is both a chronicle of their courage and a reminder that the fight to protect women's rights is far from over.

Women Who Woke up the Law by Karin Wells is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. To place a hold or learn more, visit haliburtonlibrary.ca.

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College strike impacts community as a whole

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While the province-wide strike for college support staff impacts thousands of students, it also touches the lives of the many people who utilize the Fleming CREW Employment Centre in the heart of Haliburton.

The community resource for employers and workers supports a variety of individuals both seeking employment, and seeking staff. It offers access to Service Canada, computers and printers for resume production, employment and training consultants to pair workers with jobs, and seasonal employment opportunities for shoulder-season months.

And since the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) declared a strike two weeks ago, the support services have been closed to the community. With summer months dwindling down and trades jobs shifting gears, many locals find themselves at a crossroads this time of year; between a job and a hard place. Normally, the job services would be there to catch the fall, but not this time.

In a recent press release shared by the OPSEU bargaining team, staff shared that there is momentum behind the strike. "We need to stay strong," said the OPSEU website. "The colleges are starting to feel the pain of not having qualified staff to do the work – and we are nearing that crucial tipping point."

While Fleming CREW is not directly linked to Haliburton School of art and Design, it falls under the umbrella of Fleming Colleges, and is therefore impacted by the budget cuts. And while many assume it is merely students impacted by the closures, Fleming CREW staff noted that the reality is that the community will feel the hit if they keep their doors closed much longer.

The other service under the umbrella of support staff is academic upgrading for Fleming College, and while the advisors work with all four Fleming campuses in Peterborough, Cobourg, Lindsay, and Haliburton, the nature of each community varies greatly. Many students locally are adults, seeking a pathway to get their lives on track, and build a brighter future.

The organization supports students with transportation, internet access, housing, poverty prevention, and food shortages, to name a few. It's a multi-faceted aid system with one goal in mind: allowing the students of the community - at any age - to create pathways to success in education.

And with the ongoing strike and push for privatization, these free community services are off the table for the time being; impacting many scattered around the county.

The colleges are striking against the College Employer Council (CEC). "If OPSEU is going to insist on all these demands, then negotiations will not work, and mediation is the only solution," said Graham Lloyd, CEO of the CEC." It's a simple choice for OPSEU, drop these demands or let a mediator/arbitrator decide. This strike will not make the unreasonable demands affordable or reasonable."

"We're ready to move forward - we simply ask that they come back to the table to do it," rebutted the OPSEU. "Graham Lloyd is telling the media things they never communicated across the table during negotiations or since. Instead of meeting with us to discuss concerns with our proposals, Lloyd is on a destructive PR tour making sure we don't reach a deal."

The strike is ongoing at this time, and further updates will be available as the story continues to develop.

Masters of music

Award-winning Canadian soul and blues singer Sandra Bouza performed at the Pinestone on Saturday as the Haliburton County Folk Society kicked off its annual concert series. The show was opened by local musician Lizzy Clarke, who dazzled the audience with her voice. For upcoming shows, visit www.haliburtonfolk.com.
/ADAM FRISK staff

Haliburton's very own Lizzy Clarke performs at the Pinestone on Saturday in support of Sandra Bouza as the Haliburton County Folk Society kicks off its annual concert series.

Students at JDH warm up before their Terry Fox Run on Sept. 26 in Haliburton. Leadership students led an outdoor exercise class to get the school warmed up. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Mrs. Harrison's Grade 3 class at Archie Stouffer celebrated Terry Fox on Sept. 25 with the rest of the school. Students raised over $1000 through their Toonies for Terry fundraising campaign. /submitted

A tradition for Terry

Lennon Kinghorn and Paige Shenton prepare for their first Terry Fox Run with Stuart Baker Elementary School. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

WINTER GUIDE
IS COMING SOON!

To see your local free event
listed in our
Winter Guide Magazine, email
HaliburtonWinterGuide@gmail.com

The guide will include events that take place
in December 2025, and
January through April 2026.

Listing Deadline is October 10, 2025

The Echo Haliburton County | County Life | The Times Minden Ontario

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DROP OFF CLEAN & GENTLY USED CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
- Monday, September 29 to Thursday, October 2, 2025
- Fleming College Haliburton School of Art + Design
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- Donations will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

No undergarments, bed linens, household goods or sports equipment.

BROWSE DONATIONS & PICK UP NEW CLOTHES & ACCESSORIES
EVERYONE WELCOME!
- Saturday, October 4, 2025
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Great Hall - Fleming College Haliburton School of Art + Design
- Refresh your wardrobe with gently-used clothing at no cost!
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FLEMING Haliburton School of Art + Design
Municipality of Dysart et al

Dysart agrees to parking space lease

from page 1

"So we've got some more funding available," Ewalde said. "And this funding is actually for a Level 3 EV charging, so it's a faster charge."

Lakeland, along with Environment Haliburton, had previously presented to council earlier this year a plan to install Level 2 charging stations in the town through an application of funding from Aviva Canada. Council approved the plan, but the funding application was denied.

"The faster charging, as vehicles are getting larger batteries and can charge faster, is what the consumers are asking for," Ewalde explained.

Both parties had previously discussed and determined that the parking lot across from the municipal building is the most advantageous location for the stations.

Similar to the proposal earlier this year, Lakeland would cover all costs associated with the installation, maintenance, and operation of the two charging stations, requiring zero investment from the municipality.

"All we're asking is for Dysart et al to provide some land," Ewalde said.

EV drivers would be charged on a per-kilowatt-hour basis for the electricity used, and all service and support would be handled by the company.

In exchange for leasing the four parking spots and space for the infrastructure, the municipality would receive "special charging rates for future fleet electric vehicles."

Lakeland proposed a 12-year lease with two five-year extensions. The municipality would be required to continue clearing the parking spaces of snow and enforce the current parking bylaws for the spaces.

The municipality agreed, in part, to lease the parking area "on the condition that no public funds are spent on the installation and maintenance of the stations" should Lakeland secure the funding.

MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER

The Municipality of Dysart et al is actively inviting applications for Volunteer Firefighters to join our team.

This volunteer position is highly demanding of your time as well as both physically and mentally challenging.
The ideal candidates will live or work within proximity of the fire hall, be committed to community safety and will have a desire to work closely with others.

A detailed job description is available at www.dysartetal.ca/careers for your review.
Interested persons can apply on the Municipal website at www.dysartetal.ca/en/living-in-our-community/volunteer-fire-department or submit a resume to Fire Chief Dan Chumbley at dchumbley@dysartetal.ca no later than 4:00pm Friday, October 10, 2025

Alternatively, your submission may be mailed to P.O. Box 389, Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
Attn: Fire Chief Dan Chumbley or HR Manager, Sonja Marx

We thank all those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request.
The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

Oh deer!

Deer enjoy an all-you-can-eat buffet of pumpkins at the Haliburton Village welcome sign on Sunday afternoon. /ADAM FRISK staff

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Dysart denies OPA application for proposed Harcourt subdivision

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

The Municipality of Dysart et al has denied the application for an Official Plan Amendment (OPA) to redesignate a portion of land in Harcourt for the development of a significant residential project.

The proposal sought to redesignate a portion of the land currently designated as Rural Areas to a Waterfront Residential policy area and an Environmental Protection Area.

The primary objective of the amendment was to create 25 new waterfront residential lots in the northern section of the property, specifically in the area surrounding Benoir Lake.

According to the application, access for the proposed lots would have been provided via Benoir Lake Road and a proposed common elements condominium road connecting the development's northern and southern phases. The waterfront access itself will be through a shared common block.

The proposed development, dubbed Algonquin Garden, drew the ire of community members and cottage owners, with dozens of letters opposing the application being sent to the municipality. A petition with Change.org was also created, garnering more than 550 signatures as of Sept. 25.

During a public meeting on Tuesday, municipal officials presented their report on the OPA application in front of a packed council chamber. Officials with the developer were also on hand for the meeting.

"To date, the municipality has received approximately 43 written submissions all expressing opposition to the proposal," Kris Orsan, manager of planning, said during the presentation of the report.

In the letters, community members expressed concerns with the scale of development and transparency. Among the concerns raised were the impact on the environment and wildlife. Lake capacity, boating pressure, and water quality. Infrastructure, and potential financial burden, as well as an apparent lack of consultation with Indigenous communities.

Several members of the public and councillors in attendance on Tuesday also publicly voiced their opinions on the proposed development.

"Well, I'm just going to make this very short because there's been a lot of talk," Deputy Mayor Walt McKechnie said." I just think that from what I've heard, there's so many issues that don't fit into our Official Plan… I don't see why we would spend any more time on this application because to me the end result is going to be the way I feel."

McKechnie's comments were met with applause from the members of the public at the meeting.

Councillor Nancy Wood-Roberts thanked the members of the public "who passionately spoke about the protection of the environment and standing up for proper planning."

"I'm ready to move forward with this and follow the recommendation that staff has supplied and that we deny this," the councillor said.

"Yep, I think everybody is," Mayor Murray Fearrey replied with more applause breaking out in the chambers.

The developer also submitted an application for Plan of Subdivision for its second (south) phase of the proposed development. However, the Municipality of Dysart et al is not the approval authority for this application process, Jeff Iles, director of planning, explained during the public meeting. It is up to the County of Haliburton to approve or deny the application.

"Dysart is just a commenting agency," he said. "Our council will review the submissions and make a recommendation. The county will have a public consultation process and make a decision at a later date."

The municipality recommended the denial of the applications.

Request for Proposals

2025-FIN-16 - External Auditing Services

The Municipality of Dysart et al is inviting proposals from qualified accounting firms to provide External Audit Services.

View bid document at
https://dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca/

Submit your proposal online at
https://dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca/
*No paper submissions permitted

RFP closes
Friday, October 17, 2025 at 11 AM local time

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‘No resources’ for autism; local mom speaks out

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

In 2019, Doug Ford announced cuts to the Ontario Autism Program, the program responsible for financing and administering treatment for children under the age of 18 diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). What used to be full coverage was cut to $20,000 per year until the age of six and then $5,000 per year between the ages of six and 18. Families earning more than $250,000 annually were cut off completely.

That same year, Tabatha Mascia’s son Dayton, was diagnosed with ASD.

“That changed everything,” said Mascia.

Wanting a diagnosis and assistance for her son, she sought Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) and paid out of pocket for a diagnosis. IBI cost her over $40,000 and lasted for three months. Dayton benefitted from the IBI greatly, reducing his risk of running away.

Mascia says that she had family members that lived in Haliburton County, meaning she visited frequently.

“My husband and I were here at Rotary Park and something just clicked to come north,” said Mascia. “The city can be overwhelming for children on the spectrum. Just because there are more services, doesn’t mean it is a better fit.”

Another big plus for the family were the smaller classroom sizes at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, kids were forced to learn online. After returning to school in-person the classroom sizes exploded.

“Classroom sizes are much bigger now and there are no resources,” said Mascia, noting that there were fewer educational assistants (EAs).

“He had no support in the classroom,” said Mascia. “There was no EA in the class. He could not function by himself in the classroom.”

“He was sitting in the classroom and all the kids around him are learning and he is sitting there, feeling inadequate,” said Mascia.

A change in schooling, the ASPIRE program

Mascia was gutted when Dayton returned from school one day and told her that he did not want to be Autistic anymore.

“The teachers at Archie are amazing and they can only do what they can,” said Mascia. “If they are not given enough, then they cannot do enough.”

Mascia says that she has been told that the local school board, Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has not been able to get the staff to come out to Minden to work.

When asked about staffing numbers, Sinead Meraw, communications officer for TLDSB said that “we are not currently experiencing a shortage of educational assistants in Haliburton County. The TLDSB Human Resources Services staffing officers and dispatch team continuously monitor system staffing needs as they arise.”

Last September, Mascia made the decision to enrol Dayton in Unique Minds Academy in Barrie. Leaving her career, Mascia and her son stayed at a hotel during the week while Dayton attended the school in the winter. Once the weather got better, she drove Dayton to the academy every day.

Unique Minds Academy is a school that offers IBI, a ratio of three EAs to each student, and both occupational and speech therapy.

While youth receive therapy services, the therapists can share the progress with teachers, improving their education experience.

“It was the most amazing experience,” said Mascia. “Attending the academy improved Dayton’s reading skills, writing skills, mathematical ability, and his social skills.”

However due to the distance, Mascia decided to enrol Dayton at Archie Stouffer Elementary school this year when the new semester began, attracted to their new ASPIRE program. ASPIRE stands for: achievement, social skills, personal growth, independence, regulation, and engagement, and was created specifically to support students identified with a diagnosis of autism. ASPIRE classes have six kids with one teacher and two EAs.

Meraw says that the ASPIRE program is both new and highly individualized.

“The objective of the program is to develop communication, self-regulation, and social skills with increasing levels of independence,” said Meraw.

> “*He was sitting in the classroom and all the kids around him are learning and he is sitting there, feeling inadequate...*
>
> — Tabatha Mascia

Students in the ASPIRE program also have a homeroom that they are taken out of, which Mascia says Dayton has had a hard time adjusting to.

Mascia admits that she has concerns about her son falling behind, but is hopeful about this new ASPIRE program.

Mascia says that students are only able to participate in the ASPIRE program for two years, and only from Grade 1 to Grade 6.

“The overall goal of this program is to assist students in working toward successful integration back into general education classes,” said Meraw, explaining the two-year limit.

“I don’t like how it ends in Grade 6, I think that is a little ridiculous,” said Mascia. “Because now you have two years before high school hits.”

“Outside of this class, we have a variety of placement options and supports available for students with special education needs with varying staff ratios,” said Meraw.

Hurdles, red tape, and lack of extracurriculars

There are many hurdles for families to access funding to help support their children with ASD. Assessments to receive a diagnosis, which is mandatory to receive funding, has a massive waitlist that can take over three years to get seen. Not all families have the resources to send their children to specialty schools.

“I know that we are fortunate enough to make that sacrifice,” said Mascia. “The children deserve these resources.”

For now, Mascia wishes that a sports team would allow Dayton to be involved with the team, even if he is not actively playing.

“I wish there were programs or extra-curriculars for Dayton,” said Mascia. “He just wants to play and be a kid. He wants to play hockey and play baseball, but he can’t be on a team because he doesn’t know how to play.”

“Just to be able to be a part of something,” she said. “There is a ton of stuff for children not at a neurological disadvantage. There are no extracurriculars for children like Dayton.”

Outside of the classroom, Mascia says that one of Dayton’s favourite things to do is to visit Walkabout Farm in Minden.

“He loves to be around the horses and the gator rides,” said Mascia “Otherwise he encloses in on himself in his room.”

Walkabout Farm was founded by Jennifer Semach with the intention of offering therapeutic services for all that need them. Recently, Semach has partnered with therapy professionals to offer their ASD Thrive with Horses program. Every participant receives an individualized program to match different needs.

“Horses have a miraculous ability to react to people’s energy,” said Semach.

Youth participating in the program have the opportunity to meet and interact with the horses, while their team works with the kids to teach them about non-verbal communication skills. The horses do not judge anyone for their abilities, and kids feel accepted by them.

“Jenn is incredible, she is a superwoman,” said Mascia. “She will do anything and everything she can for you.”

“It is very eye-opening how Dayton has progressed,” said Semach, noting that she has seen an increase in Dayton’s confidence.

Through offering professionals services at Walkabout Farm, the charity is allowed to receive funding from the OAP. Semach offers the program to everyone, regardless of financial ability. With the low economic level of the county, Semach knew that offering her services at next to no costs would be invaluable to everyone in need of her services.

“My focus is on mental health, development, and family support,” said Semach.

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth, and Parents is one publicly accessible organization that connects families of children with special needs to support services like Kinark Child and Family Services.

“Families living in rural areas often have extra hurdles due to lack of public transportation, lack of specialized/private support in the area which means extra expenses for travelling out of town for specialty appointments,” said Point in Time staff Dawn Mole-Hurd and Melanie Jones over e-mail. “Respite workers have a difficult time finding places in our community to go with youth, especially after school and during the colder months. We don’t have a recreation facility that has a drop-in swimming pool or other recreation activities that bigger communities have.”

Point in Time and the Youth Hub are the sole children and youth mental health support in the county.

They say that Point in Time has a long list for speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, pediatrician, ABA therapy and funding.

Mole-Hurd and Jones say that youth with ASD would benefit greatly by increasing respite services and activities that families can do together. Kids with special needs need more access to specialized services such as ABA, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, tutoring, social skills programs, and recreational programs in Haliburton County.

“Transportation is also a hurdle,” said Mole-Hurd and Jones. “A form of transit would be very helpful.”

There are many hurdles that families with children with special needs face in the county. Extra travel expenses, minimal specialized services, a lack of respite workers, a lack of treatment homes for youth, a lack of supportive living homes for adults, and a lack of fully accessible housing are all factors that impact the lives of those in Haliburton County.

With Funding Program waitlists and additional lists to receive support from Ontario Autism, there are clear shortfalls from the provincial government that continue to have lasting impacts on the most vulnerable youth.

While people wait for support from the government to come, it is as important as ever to support the services of Point in Time, Walkabout Farm, Kinark Child and Family Services, Canopy Support Services, Five Counties Children’s Centre and the Youth Hub.

“Children are mean and we all know that,” said Mascia. “It boils down to parenting. Pay attention to your kids and if the teacher says your kid is bullying, have a serious conversation with them.”

“Teach your children empathy and that other children are struggling with cognitive intellectual disabilities,” she said. “As much as some politicians think that it is some curable thing, it is not going away. Children need to learn that it is okay, and that there is nothing wrong with these kids. They play differently and act differently.”

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Huskies Hockey

The Caledon Admirals visited the S.G, Nesbitt Memorial Arena this past weekend to face off against the hometown Huskies. Despite a tight game, the Huskies fell to the Admirals 3-2. The next home game is against the Trenton Golden Hawks on Saturday, Sept. 4 in Minden. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Saturday, Oct. 18
4 p.m.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

For more information please visit our website

WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Youth Unlimited had a great turnout to their first annual golf tournament held on Sept. 18 at the Haliburton Highlands Golf Club. The event was sponsored by Vickery Advisory. /Submitted

Youth Unlimited host first annual golf tournament

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

On Thursday, Sept. 18th Haliburton Highlands Youth Unlimited played their first annual golf tournament.

The event was hosted at Haliburton Highlands Golf Club and sponsored by Vickery Advisory, a law firm based in Eagle Lake.

"Thirty-seven golfers came out to have a great time raising funds for the new community funded youth centre," said Leanne Young, community director for Youth Unlimited.

Their Bridge Youth Centre, located at 2 Victoria Street in Haliburton, was built in January of this year.

Their group is a satellite of Kawartha Youth for Christ. While Youth Unlimited has run programming for 17 years, it was only this year when they could move into their new home.

In the first six months of operating from their new location, Young says that over 100 youth came through to attend their after school programs and monthly gym nights.

"The Bridge Youth Centre exists to provide youth in Haliburton equal access to positive community, caring adult mentors and opportunities to grow in new skills and leadership," she said.

Their after school programs allow youth in Grades 4 to 12 the ability to hang out with friends, bake, do crafts, play sports, or play games and other activities for free.

"The golf tournament was a huge success and raised over $11,000 from community members through pledges," said Young. "A generous local donor was committed to matching the fundraiser which will bring up the funds raised to $22,000. These funds will help the organization kick off the school year well as they expect their number of youth attending programs to grow."

Youth of all backgrounds are encouraged to join in on the fun and to hang out after school. Youth Unlimited's mission is to empower youth

"Youth Unlimited would like to thank all who made this event a huge success. Local businesses were very generous in providing prizes and raffles which made the tournament a lot of fun," said Young.

If you are interested in their programs or would like to learn how to support Youth Unlimited, please email Kyle and Leanne Young at haliburton@kawyu.ca.

Perkins returns to tell her stories

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

She's a familiar face. One that many locals have seen time and time again, over the years.

Martha Perkins joined the Haliburton Echo in 1985, where she stayed on as editor until 2009.

Over those decades in community newspapers, Perkins wrote countless stories on the characters of the communities, the politicians of the day, the events that united towns, and the challenges that rallied neighbours against one another.

And through it all, she was a steady voice.

That's why, upon her return to the community for a brief visit, she agreed to share her side of the stories, through the Haliburton Co-op's Telling Our Stories Speakers Series.

The series is a monthly installment of community speakers, all with some semblance of ties to the Haliburton Highlands. While most presentations are hosted at the Fish Hatchery, other presenters, such as former presenter Steve Paikin of TVO fame, and now, Martha Perkins, have warranted organizers to shift gears and head to the Pinestone.

"The word is really getting out," said Barrie Martin, one of the founders of the educational sessions. "Everytime we run a Speakers Series, there are new faces in the crowd, and the larger we become, the more people are curious."

While residing on the West Coast, Perkins has made a habit of returning to the Haliburton Highlands when she can. She attended a Speakers Series last fall, and when organizers approached her to run her own, "she jumped on that with enthusiasm," said Martin. "She left a legacy, and beyond Haliburton, she has lots of experience in community newspapers."

The Speakers Series is slated for 7 p.m. on Oct. 8 at the Pinestone, pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Martin at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com.

Upcoming Speakers Series are posted on the Telling Our Stories website, with monthly sessions running until June, 2026.

The Fall Fly-In had a great turnout this year. The parking lots were filled and the crowds were some of the biggest seen. This year, it looked like the classic car show had tripled in size.

Fall colours from the sky

Joey loved checking out the planes in Stanhope this year, especially the free stickers. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Adverse Conditions played tunes at the Fly-In this year. People were dancing and grooving while watching the planes and enjoying their afternoon.

Former MPs speak in Wilberforce

The Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project, a project of the Haliburton Community Cooperative, will be hosting a series of information sessions designed to encourage and prepare people to get involved in their community and make a positive difference, inside and outside of local politics. All of the sessions are free, non-partisan, and open to everyone.

The second information session titled "Finding Your Why: The Big Picture" will feature former Members of Parliament, Barry Devolin (Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock) and Maryam Monsef (Peterborough-Kawartha) speaking to why people should get involved by running for office, supporting a political campaign, or being an informed community member. It will take place on Tuesday, October 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. More information and registration is available at www.hhhdp.ca.

Submitted

Because fixing is better than tossing

Why toss it away when you can bring it back to life?

Every year, the talented volunteers at the SIRCH Repair Café save hundreds of items from the landfill – electronics, small appliances, furniture, textiles, ceramics, bikes, even jewelry. But the Repair Café is about more than repairs. It's about community – sharing skills, learning something new, and connecting with others in a welcoming space.

Together, we're building a more sustainable Haliburton - one repair at a time.

Mark Your Calendar!

Our final Repair Café of the season is happening Sunday, October 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Ave, Haliburton.

(Remember: Repair Cafés run every first Sunday of the month from April through October)

Want to get involved?

We're always looking for volunteers who love to tinker, fix, or share their know-how. If you're a fixer at heart, join our team and help extend the life of everyday items while reducing waste.

For more information, call SIRCH at 705-457-1742 or visit www.sirch.on.ca

Submitted by SIRCH Community Service

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SUDOKU

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		9	6				7	
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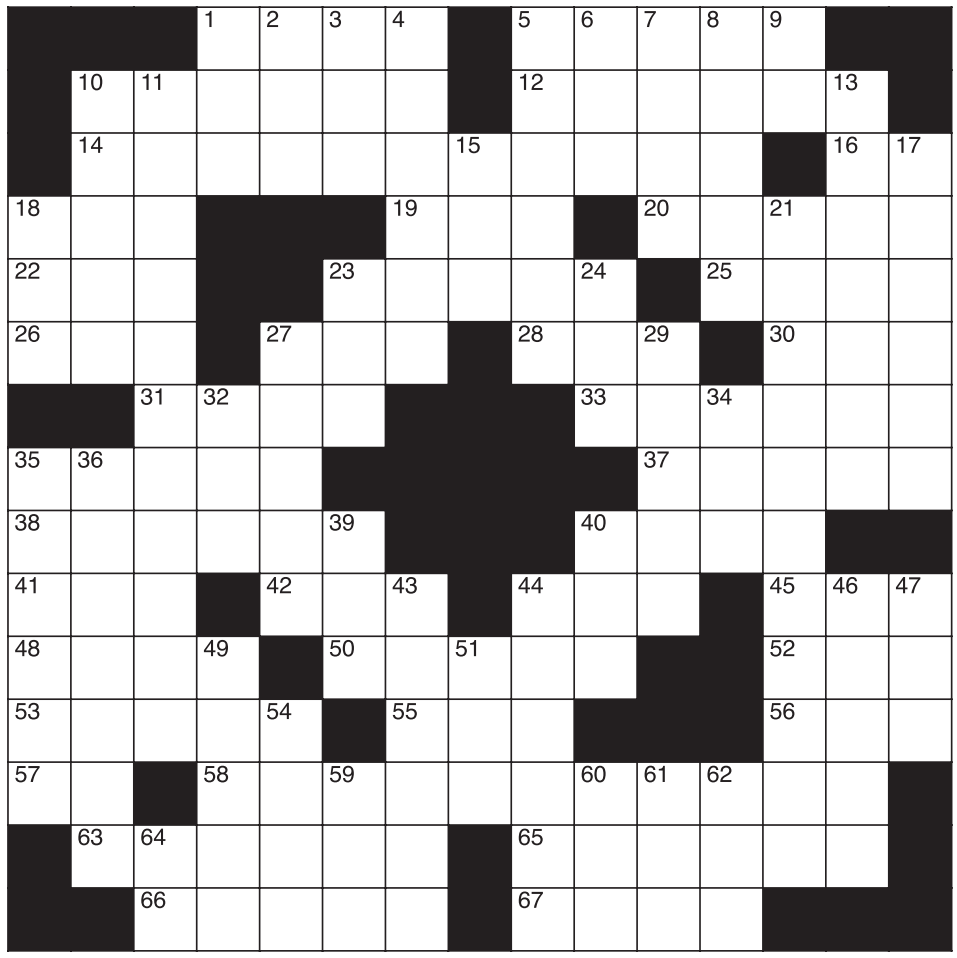
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 19



CLUES ACROSS
1. Native American people of CA
5. Long periods of time (Brit.)
10. Classroom tool
12. Rods
14. One who renews
16. They start the alphabet
18. Periodical (slang)
19. Smooth singer Cole
20. Dorsal sclerites in insects
22. One from Utah
23. The world of the dead
25. Singer Redding
26. Mafia head
27. Wrongly
28. Unhappy
30. Anger
31. Dark olive black
33. Places to sit and eat
35. Made a mistake
37. Damp
38. Banned fuel type
40. Actor Damon
41. What thespians do
42. A polite address for a woman
44. Disallow
45. Swiss river
48. A banana has one
50. Afrikaans
52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
53. Agave
55. Journalist Tarbell
56. One-time tech leader
57. Incidentally (abbr.)
58. Intestinal bacterium
63. Loose sheats around the spinal cord
65. Accompanies nook
66. Vogue
67. Highly excited

CLUES DOWN
1. Witch
2. Utilize
3. Writing utensil
4. Where rockers work
5. Becomes less intense
6. Consume
7. Type of catfish
8. ÒHorsetown, U.S.A.Ó
9. Atomic #50
10. The Muse of lyric poetry
11. Brings back to life
13. Humorous critiques
15. Cool!
17. Worst
18. Wet dirt
21. Useful
23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity
24. High schoolersÕ test
27. Internet device
29. City in India
32. A place to rest
34. Chat responder
35. A way to move on
36. What consumers are given
39. Digital audiotape
40. More (Spanish)
43. Disfigured
44. White (Spanish)
46. Church building
47. Georgia rockers
49. SurgeonÕs tool
51. ÒMuch __ about nothingÓ
54. Make by braiding
59. Local area network
60. Unit of work
61. Indigenous person of Thailand
62. Liquefied natural gas
64. Distance to top

Answers on page 19

Robert and Monica blew the house down at Boshkung Brewing's Oktoberfest party on Saturday. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Pretzels and beer

Boshkung Brewing staff were in high spirits at their Oktoberfest party on Saturday, Sept. 27. From left, Alex Piper, Galexie Mackenzie, Mathew Renda, and Logan Mulock. Oceane Harris sits in front. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Genealogical society hosts British Home Children expert

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

For those who are unaware, Sept. 28 is British Home Children Day in Canada. In recognition of the British Home Children and the day of remembrance, the Haliburton Highlands Genealogical Society hosted Home Children Canada president Lori Oschefski on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

"The home children were over 100,000 children who were forcibly immigrated to Canada," opened Oschefski. "Put to work on our farms and in our Canadian households. It's a little piece in our Canadian history that is conspicuously absent from our history lessons. In our universities and really, as general knowledge across Canada."

Oschefski founded Home Children Canada to advocate for bringing awareness of the British Home Children.

Many of the children that forcibly emigrated to Canada were beaten, abused, and treated as others when living with their host families, says Oschefski. There are several disappearances of British Home Children that we do not have an answer for today. These abuses lead to many children's deaths at the hands of the families that benefitted from their labour.

The mass immigration period for the British Home Children lasted in Canada from 1869 to 1948. The three most known companies that profited from sending these children are Bernardo's, Fegans, and Quarriers, which all still operate today. The two main pioneers of child migration are Annie MacPherson and Maria Rye.

While the children were labelled as orphans, only around 12 per cent of the children that came to Canada were actually without both parents.

In 1874, Andrew Doyle, a representative from the London Board of Governors was sent to visit homes and the children sent over to Canada.

In his report, Doyle states:

"Because of Miss Rye's carelessness and Miss MacPherson's limited resources, thousands of British children, already in painful circumstances, were cast adrift to be overworked or mistreated by the settlers of early Canada."

Doyle expressed that he felt that the program was child exploitation.

"They promoted Canada as being a country of opportunity," said Oschefski. She said that this was not the case at all. Even the children's parents who signed away their rights often did not fully understand what they were signing. There was often very little consent or understanding that these companies were going to send your children away forever.

Children often were accompanied by a fund of around $120. This money was for essential supplies and for the care towards the children. Often this money was spent on the host's families' own children. These children rarely saw the money that was supposed to support them, all while the companies shipping the kids to Canada profited off the governments.

Oschefski estimates that around 75 per cent of all British Home Children experienced abuse or neglect in one form or another.

"They were stigmatized by the British government and by the Canadian government," said Oschefsky.

"They were waifs, and strays, and tainted, and corrupt with moral slime and filth, inherited from their parents," writes one historical source.

Oschefski says that in our world, we continue to do things like the British Home Children that we should not be doing.

"If you don't acknowledge the history then that's all you are going to do, repeat it," said Oschefski.

Oschefski says that the children that were forced to travel away from home, should have been kept in England. Supported with social systems and institutions near their families, rather than ripped away from where they were born.

Public backlash brought an end to the program in Canada in the 40s. It was not until the 70s when the program ended in other Commonwealth nations like Australia.

Oschefsky estimates that there are four to six million descendants of British Home Children living in Canada.

Oschefsky and Home Children Canada continue to advocate for the voices of these lost children. While the British Home Children have not been officially recognized and no apology has been given by the Canadian government, Oschefsky remains hopeful that they will receive recognition in the future.

One notable descendant of a British Home Child, is Doug Ford, says Oschefsky.

To encourage finding out about your loved one's history, Home Children Canada offers searching the British Home Children registry through their website at www.homechildrencanada.com/registry.

Home Children Canada is a registered charity with memberships available for those who are interested.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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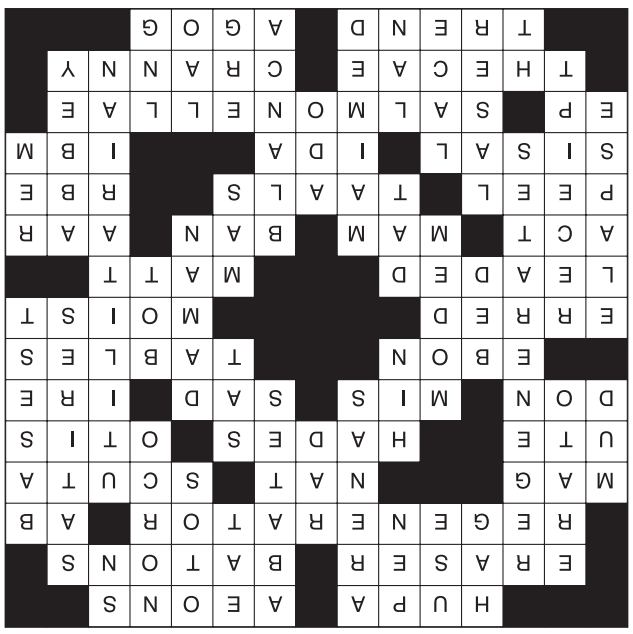
CROSSWORD ANSWERS



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COMING EVENTS

Fall Planting Workshop for Seniors

with hands-on garden creation at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care

Saturday, October 18, 2025
12pm – 3:30pm

FREE

Workshop starts at Minden Cultural Centre
Planting follows at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care

As part of this workshop designed for seniors, you will learn techniques for fall planting and caring for spring bulbs, shrubs and flowering perennials plus participate in planting "Betty's Garden" at Hyland Crest

Pre-register to receive a free gift at the workshop

Scan code for more information and to register:

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Haliburton County Master Gardeners
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Ontario

COMING EVENTS

FALL SALE by the Eagle Lake Ladies. **Saturday, October 4th** from 10am to 2pm at the Eagle Lake Church - 2605 Eagle Lake Rd. Quilts, Sewing, Crafts

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CANADA POST / POSTES CANADA

Minden Post Office

is currently seeking tenders for the following conract:

Office Cleaning
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Submission Cut off
October 25, 2025

Specifications may be picked up at the Post Office located at 6 Water Street, Minden

MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East is currently seeking candidates for the future position of:

Full-Time, Deputy Fire Chief/Training Officer
Fire Department

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Hours of Work: 40 hours/week, availability for evenings and weekends as needed or in the event of emergency situations.

Successful applicants will be required to provide a criminal reference check and a clean driver's abstract upon commencement of employment.

A copy of the detailed job description for the above noted position can be obtained on our website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Deputy Fire Chief/Training Officer"** may be submitted on or before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, October 15th, 2025 via email, fax, mail, or in person through the office drop box. Interested applicants may submit their resume, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

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IN MEMORIAM

Charles Hughes
September 17, 2018

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was called away
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Despite provincial cuts

Board balances budget

by Ariel White

The Trillium Lakelands Districts School Board approved a balanced operating budget for the coming year at its regular board meeting last week despite almost four million dollars less than the projected funding allocation from the Ministry of Education and Training.

Retiring Superintendent Al Ingram presented the budget to the board at the Lindsay Education Centre last Tuesday. The budget includes a total grant allocation of $136,794,710 which is $3,671,955 less than the projected amount from the ministry. "This is a balanced budget as required by the province," said Ingram. He also noted that 64 per cent of the budget would be assigned to classroom spending, two per cent above the provincial requirement. The provincial definition of classroom spending, according to Ingram does not include administrators, support staff such as school secretaries, custodians or the contentious issue of teacher preparation time.

The area of technology is of concern to Ingram as well. He feels that the province did not allocate acceptable support for computers in class-

(more on page 4)

GO!

The waiting is almost over for Haliburton County residents anxious to see signs of activity at the two hospital building sites. Work is scheduled to begin this week on the long awaited projects.

Construction site superintendent

(more on page 3)

Terry's helpers

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students and staff provided refreshments at Haliburton's Head Lake Park during the High School's Terry Fox Run. HHSS principal Gary Brohman and teacher Paul Longo stopped momentarily for a break and photo opportunity. Pictured with them are, front row, from the left: Russell Snoddon, Stef Stevens and Lisa Burk. Back row: Chris Snoddon, Paul Longo, Krista Matysek, Gary Brohman, Nichole Sisco, Linda Brandon and Patti Brydon. For photos from the Minden Terry Fox Run, see page 17.

Policing costs could jump $250,000

by Jerry Grozelle

Staff Sergeant Andy Millar, along with OPP superintendents Chris Wyatt and Steve Ostrowski appeared before Haliburton County council Wednesday, September 23 to explain a proposed realignment of services that would see Haliburton County's policing costs jump by $250,000. Millar explained that the County of Victoria has asked the OPP to provide contract costing for the county, with the exception of Lindsay (and Ops Township, which has opted to buy its police services from the Lindsay Police Force). A five-year contract has been signed between Lindsay and Ops Township.

The Times contacted Victoria County Warden John Macklem, who said he was surprised when the announcement was made.

"We got back-doored," he said. "We were trying to negotiate a deal for the entire county. It's tough for us to know what our role is. There could be an interesting ripple effect."

Local police forces are only allowed by legislation to provide services to contiguous municipalities (those which border their jurisdiction). In order for the Lindsay force to provide police services to any other municipality outside the Town of Lindsay, it had to secure a contract with Ops, since Ops Township completely surrounds Lindsay. Ops was in an enviable position in that negotiation process.

Under the OPP proposal, police services between Victoria and Haliburton would become separated. The Lindsay and Coboconk offices would amalgamate, with the two being renamed Victoria Detachment. Administration for the entire county, excluding Lindsay and Ops, would be handled from the OPP office in Lindsay. The Lindsay and Coboconk offices would both remain as operational centres, with Coboconk covering the northern part of the county.

Victoria County would benefit from a lower cost of administration, with one detachment commander reporting to the governing body; a greater inte-

(more on page 12)

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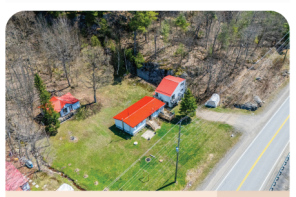

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